

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Appliances of the Past Project

Effects of Appliances on Life

O. H. 592

HENRIETTA TELL

Interviewed

by

Robert Fabian

on

June 6, 1985

HENRIETTA TELL

Mrs. Henrietta Tell was born on June 25, 1920 in Youngstown, Ohio. She was from a large family of twelve children who understood the value of family life and togetherness. Mrs. Tell graduated from South High School, and then attended the Youngstown Business School for one year in 1938. From 1941-1945 she worked at the Ravenna Arsenal. Following this work, Mrs. Tell worked at Ohio Bell Telephone Company from 1947-1954. Henrietta married Mr. Alfred Tell in 1948, and continued to work till 1954. After being married for several years and having two children, Mrs. Tell worked part-time for twenty-two years at the Young Steel Products. Mrs. Tell enjoys her work in the home and takes pride in her cooking abilities.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Appliances of the Past Project

INTERVIEWEE: HENRIETTA TELL

INTERVIEWER: Robert Fabian

SUBJECT: Personal background, appliances, women having more free time, effects of appliances

DATE: June 6, 1985

F: This is Robert Fabian for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program doing an interview with Henrietta Tell on appliances of the past.

Just to get started a little bit, would you like to tell me about your background, where you were born?

T: I was born on the south side of Youngstown on King Street and I came from a family of twelve children. There were nine girls and three boys in our family. We had a wonderful life, a happy life because there were so many of us. It seemed we always had a houseful. Your friends and everybody came in; one brings one friend and so you have twelve children, so automatically there are 24. Then when my sisters married, my older sisters, each one married and they had their children and then you can imagine the family get-togethers; there were 38 of us at a holiday.

My dad was a painter, a professional painter by trade, and my mother was of course a fabulous cook. She worked at a hotel for a long time. As I say, it was a wonderful family life.

F: What was the name of the street you lived on?

T: King Street, right off of South Avenue. We all shared in everything; we had cooking, cleaning, and the laundry and no matter what, holiday times were especially happy times for us. I've tried to make them for my own children, make them memorable with special, little cookies and the baking, something special that daddy liked or this one had a favorite.

F: Were you the oldest in the family?

T: No, I was the eighth.

F: You were the eighth?

T: I'm the ninth because there are three younger than I am. I was the ninth child, is that lucky? At any rate, our house was always full; it was always happy. We always looked forward to family get-togethers. I remember even as a child, my dad; I adored my father. Mom and me in later years would always say he would never let a drop of rain fall on my head. She said, "You do to your girls like your dad did to you. He never let a drop of rain fall on your head." I loved him. He would come home from work and in that lunch pail were always little suckers, chocolate bars, Nabisco cookies; there was always something for his children. When we saw daddy coming he would always run because we knew there was some special treat for us.

F: What was your schooling like; where did you go to school?

T: I went to South Avenue; we went to South Avenue School, which is no longer there. It has been torn down. Then I went to Grant Junior High School. Then I graduated from South. Then for a short time, almost a year, I went to Youngstown State University to take business machines. During the war, I think the war broke out, I went to the arsenal and I worked there until 1945 when the war was over. Then I went to work at the telephone company. I worked at the telephone company until Michele was three years old. I got married in 1948 and I worked there until probably 1951. At that time I left because we moved to Poland. After I married Al we moved to Poland. Gee, I jumped a lot from childhood to having children. I was married in 1948 and we moved to Poland in 1952. I always worked part-time. I worked at the telephone company and when I was hired there it was supposed to be as an operator, but they didn't have any openings. They asked if I would work in the office for awhile because I could type and they needed a typist. They said, "Would you work here until there is another opening or another class starts?" So I did. Then about that time they installed all those machines, the addressograph, multigraph, multilith. We printed a daily addendum and I learned the whole setup. After that they said, "Now we promised that you could be an operator, now do you still want to be an operator? And you can continue in the next class or do you want to continue here?" At that time I asked dad, "What do you think?" He said, "Stay where you are because your holidays are free, and your nights are free and your weekends." So I stayed there. Then, as

I said, I got married in 1948 and I worked there about seven years after that. Michele was two or three years old when I quit. But we moved to Poland at that time and I didn't drive, and we had only one car anyway. It would have been too hard to try and get a bus and go into town and drop her off. It was just out of the question, so I quit. Of course, shortly after that I had learned to drive because there was just no way that I was going to be stuck home all of the time. Al was in Hubbard. It was really a must, so I learned to drive at that time. Michele was six years old when we had a little boy, and he died. Four years later, we had Jackie. I had to have a car to take the children to the doctor's, so Al bought me a car.

F: When did you go back to work?

T: Michele was in school and Jackie was about three years old when they called and asked me if I would consider working part-time, so I did work at the telephone company quite a while.

Then there was this opportunity with Young Steel Products and they had a similar setup. There is all advertising; I did all their mailings and advertising. I worked for them from the time Jackie was three years old until Jackie was 25 years old. I worked until January a year ago, 1984.

F: How did you feel about working outside the home after you got married?

T: I continued because Al was in school.

F: Was he a pharmacist?

T: He was still in pharmacy. He had two years to go so I knew that it was something that I would have to do. I loved my job. With him being away in school so much it would have been terribly lonesome if I didn't have something to go to. He was in school for two years after we were married. He graduated and then we had Michele. It was really no difficult task.

F: How about doing the housework as you were working?

T: That never was a big job for me. I always tried to keep things organized. You figure today, if this is done, you have a routine and you follow your routine. My mother always took care of Michele as a child. We would always drop her off and Al would take me to work in the morning and I would come back and pick her up at night and go on home. My evening I would do my laundry and my ironing. On Saturday I was home all day and that was the day I baked

and cooked and prepared foods for the week ahead. In the morning we would get her up and we would . . . If he had to go to work that meant we had to leave a little earlier. But when he first started as a pharmacist he worked 3:00 to 10:00 one day and 9:00 to 3:00 the next. This is the way they always worked. When he worked nights I picked her up and went home and I would prepare our meal and do things I had to do and get her ready and get to bed.

F: Did it feel like you were doing two jobs instead of one, like you were working outside the home and then you came home and you were working at home yet cleaning the house?

T: Very definitely. I guess I was always a real homebody so it didn't bother me. I knew that working was a necessity for awhile and so I just took it in stride. I thought this was a must and this was something I had to do, so I did it.

F: You said you had a schedule you worked on. Is this how your mother used to do her work too?

T: Yes, we had a routine. We knew there were certain days to do things. I've changed; my life has changed a lot. If something comes up and I'm in the middle of something and I get a call do you want to do this or that, I drop it and go, because I think I can always get the laundry done or my ironing or cleaning. You do that every day; you dust and you run the sweeper and you make the beds. You keep your home in order. There was a time where I thought, this is the weekend, you have to wash all the windows in the house. This is Friday so you have to wash the bathroom down. Every day there were things that had to be done because this is the way that we always did it when we were kids. Mother said, "On Monday you wash and Tuesday you iron." Well, Wednesday you baked or did whatever. Thursday you did whatever you wanted to do, so Friday you have to clean house, Friday and Saturday. So there it was, wash the windows, and scrub the porch outside. When I first got married and we lived in that little house on Delaware Avenue, I never gave it a thought. I thought every weekend, wash all the windows in the house, upstairs and down, inside and out. This was a must, unless it was raining and I couldn't do it. I'll never forget, one of Jackie's girlfriends came over and said, "Don't tell me you're doing the windows again." I thought, now this little girl didn't think about this all by herself because children don't usually pay attention to that, so I thought apparently her mother or somebody had made some comment about Mrs. Tell, there she is again. I thought about it afterwards and I said, "All these neighbors are just as happy perhaps as I and maybe more so. They all

have a lot more free time, I'll say that for them." Maybe the windows weren't as clean as they should be, but it didn't affect their lives or their health or happiness in any way.

F: This is just something you learned because this is what you did when you were younger?

T: That's right, it was a routine; it was something that our house had to be spotless. Our floors werespotless, everything was done.

F: What was a typical laundry day, like a Monday, what kind of washing machines and that did your mom use?

T: A Maytag was always something that was standard, I think, in every American home at that time.

F: What did it look like?

T: It was just a square washer with the agitator that went around. Before we got that electric washer I remember we had washtubs and wringer. We had one of those stands and you had a washtub on one side and a washtub on the other side and the wringer was in the middle.

F: Was it electrical?

T: Oh no. You did it by hand and you rubbed clothes by hand. We had a boiler and my mother boiled the clothes. If her clothes were supposed to be white, they were white because she used to boil them and put lye in the water and Fels-Naptha Soap and everything was spotless. Then she got the Maytag, the electric washer.

F: When did she get the Maytag, do you remember?

T: I have no idea. I know that after that we got a Twin Tub Dexter.

F: What's that?

T: That's an electric washer, but you have two tubs. It's almost like the old hand wringer. You had two tubs and you would wash your clothes in them because everything had to be washed twice. With your automatic washers you can automatically wash them twice if you want to, but they get so many rinses and it's not necessary. We went from the Maytag washer to the Twin Tub Dexter, and that was how you washed your clothes and sometimes you washed them, rubbed them, and put them back in the washer and they got a second wash and then you rinsed them two or three times.

F: Was this because the washing machine didn't do that effective of a job?

T: No, it was because my mother didn't think it did that. (Laughter) My mother, God bless her, everything had to be . . . she was such a perfectionist. Everything had to be done so perfectly. Everything had to be ironed. For years after I was married I would even press my children's socks because this was the way we . . . Bed linens, I still, I'm married 37 years and I still press off all of my bed linens. I buy drip-dry, it's beautiful polyester fabrics, but it is something that is instilled in me. You just don't go to bed when the linens aren't pressed beautifully. They don't wrinkle as easily as they used to anyhow.

F: What kind of iron did your mother use?

T: When we first started out, as I can remember ironing, we had one of those irons that you heated on the gas stove. It was one of those that you clamped on; you had two bases and you would keep one heated and iron with the other. Then you automatically changed. Then came the electric irons and everything . . .

F: Are they bulkier to use or heavier than the ones now?

T: They were very heavy. They were oval shaped with a little point on the end. They had a handle that you clamped down and you connected it in some way. You pushed a little slot to fasten it and keep it tight. They were very heavy, but they did a beautiful job. You never had to worry with those about burning clothes like you did with your electric irons. Your electric irons could really get hot. You could burn clothes a lot easier than you can with these. Now then, of course, your steam irons are something else again. Everything had to be pressed; everything had to be folded perfectly or hung on a hanger. If you think that's an easy chore, you try ironing for eight or ten people.

F: It's an all day job then?

T: Absolutely. My mother would start washing early in the morning and she was still washing clothes 5:00 or 6:00 at night.

F: Do you think if she had a washer like you have that she would be able to wash those clothes faster, it would be easier work?

T: No, I think even today with your separate loads . . . A lot of people think, well, these are all white or these are all . . . If they have bed linens or shirts they put everything together. My mother, she just didn't wash that way. You washed the good white shirts in one wash. I don't care if there were three or five, this is the way it was. Everything was separated. The

underwear were a separate load, your handkerchiefs could not be washed with other things or your dish towels; everything had to be separated. I don't think it would, truthfully, for her. I think it would be easier, but I don't think it would timewise. The way you put one load through, and how long does it take? Twenty minutes. It depends on whether you put them on two rinses or what you do. It all takes time, whereas before, she would put her clothes in, and she had two washers. We went to the Dexter; she had two washers. It took her a long time.

F: If you compared a woman who had five or six kids today, and they were all in the age group of three to ten and she was washing her clothes, compare her doing her laundry to your mother, do you think she has it easier?

T: Yes. My mother washed only once a week. Today, you have a load of clothes and you can put them in the washer and wash two or three loads every day. This is the way your load is lightened. But if you believe in washing only one day a week, it's going to take you all day.

F: Even though you have the new appliances and that?

T: Oh sure. Unless you don't separate your clothes. If you don't separate your clothes you can throw everything in and get down in one or two loads. It depends on how you wash and how you do things. Myself, there are only three of us here, Aunt Toots and Al and I. I wash every five days because that's just a lot easier for me to keep things ahead. I don't like things standing around and this way things are always done, always clean, very few things left in the way.

F: Who did most of the cooking in your family?

T: My mother. My mother was a fabulous cook and my mother, we often think about it now, we often wonder how we ever learned to cook. We stayed out of the kitchen unless it was holiday time. You could watch her and she would make you help do little things. She let us make fudge, or caramel apples or something; but when it came to the cooking, the big things, and our meals, maybe we were allowed to peel potatoes or maybe we helped with one thing or another, but the most important part of the meal my mother prepared.

F: What did her kitchen look like?

T: It was big like a country kitchen. We had a stove and cupboards and a big table. We had to have a big table to accomodate everybody. Of course, we had no dishwasher, you know; we all took turns washing and drying dishes. For twelve people that's . . .

F: A chore.

T: A chore, that was it. She had everything imaginable you would want in a kettle, utensil, dish, or anything else, to make it easier. I think that's where I got my natural fend for gadgets, everything that is available.

F: What kind of stove did she have?

T: I think she had . . . it was a gas stove. We always had a gas stove; we never had an electric. She had a Tappan and then . . . I can't remember what the last stove was that she had.

F: She never had a wood or coal stove?

T: Not that I can remember. I'm sure that when they were younger she did, but we never did; we always had gas. In our home we always had a gas oven. Out back we used to have one of those brick smokers. My mother and dad used to make their own sausage, and they would smoke sausage and the like. In our home, as far back as I can remember, they always had gas.

F: How was it to cook on? You never cooked on it then?

T: She did most of the cooking. I never really got to cook until I got married. I knew what to do and how to do it because we watched her; we were around her a lot. It was amazing, after I got married and my mother got sick I was a wreck, because I knew I had to do my mother's holiday baking all by myself. She wanted everything so perfect; she was so good. To try to live up to her, that was a hard act to follow. After I got married and I had to learn a few things for myself, and I would bake and cook and take things home, my dad was, "Nobody makes these, this is the best I ever ate." I would think, my mother, all those years she cooked and baked and daddy would say, "Nobody, I don't care who makes it, nobody makes it better than Henrietta." I remember him telling my mother-in-law that. After I got married and I had different things that I had to do like her holiday cookies and all her baking and everything . . .

F: How did she store her food?

T: We had an icebox for a long time. It was the old, eternal icebox with the ice man coming.

F: Where did you put the ice when you had that?

T: In the top. You had the ice in the top; there was a special place. We used to have a card out when it was time for ice and he would always bring fifty pounds of ice. There was a place in the top; you lifted the top and the ice went right in the top.

F: How long did that fifty pounds of ice last?

T: About a week. I think as far as I can remember he only came once a week.

F: Do you remember how much it cost?

T: Maybe 50¢ or 75¢. It was just ridiculous. When the ice man came on the ice truck I remember we would always go out and there would be little slivers of ice and he would always let us eat those. It was a lot of fun. They bought things almost every day; you went to the store. They couldn't keep things; you couldn't even think of keeping things very long. At holiday time, when it was cold, you could put things outside, but you had no other means of keeping your food other than buying fresh practically every day. You got fresh meat every day and your groceries or your vegetables.

F: Did she have a garden? Do you have a garden?

T: Wonderful, we had a wonderful garden.

F: Did she do some canning then?

T: My mother canned everything that . . . you can't imagine. I don't think there was anything that was available to can that she didn't can. She put up her beans, her vegetables, her fruits. She even canned meat; she canned rabbit; she canned strawberries, everything, beets, corn, pickles, anything they had. We lived near the Pyatt Street Market and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday we would take our wagon and walk over to the market and we would get all our fresh produce and the like. We would get tomatoes by the bushel and can and make sauce, and planned canned tomatoes for soups and things. Everything that she could can, she did.

F: So this enabled you to have fresh vegetables and fruit in the wintertime too?

T: Yes. I can't remember when we even started buying the canned vegetables because my mother always canned her own.

F: When did she finally get a refrigerator, were you still at home?

T: Oh sure. I was home when we first got a refrigerator. One of my sisters got married and she had moved to Michigan and her husband was working for Ford at the time. I think she bought my mother her first refrigerator. I can't tell you how long ago that was. She had a big refrigerator. It was a Cold Spot from Sears Roebuck. That lasted for years and years. Finally, when it conked out . . .

F: That was electric?

T: Oh yes. Then we got a Whirlpool and my mother had that for probably ten or twelve years before she died. After she died we brought it here and we used it as a second refrigerator for a long time.

F: It lasted that long?

T: Yes. Do you know that I have in my basement a Westinghouse and it was the first refrigerator that was frost-free that ever came onto the market. It was marvelous. It was right before Mother's Day and I was cleaning my refrigerator; I even bought extra meat and the like and I saw a little ice there. Now these refrigerators, you had a little button and every time you opened and closed it more or less, it had a tabulator, and after so many opens and closings it automatically defrosted itself. I was in a hurry; I thought I should have defrosted it a little sooner so I took a knife and tried to knock it off, and what did I hit but the little coil. I heard this pssss and I let all the Freon out of the refrigerator. I called Al and I said, "Oh Lord, what do you know?" It was the Saturday before Mother's Day so he knew a fellow who was taking care of the refrigeration system out at the drugstore because he had a soda fountain at the time in the drugstore. The man came out and he sealed it for me. I don't think they do that; I think most of them are sealed permanently. Just as a personal favor though and because it was a Saturday on short notice and holiday time, he did seal it for us. It never worked right after that; it never defrosted itself correctly, but it did keep the food cold. In fact, I still have the old refrigerator in my cellar.

F: When they started to come out with frost-free refrigerators and that, did you believe them, like it couldn't be true?

T: When I worked in the arsenal I met a lot of wonderful people. When I got married and we were buying our appliances, I went into what was McKelvey's at that time. One of the fellows who was a foreman at the arsenal worked there, Mr. Hysler, Paul Hysler; he was a very good friend. He's the one who told me, he said, "You can't go wrong, this is the thing." So we believed him; we bought it and it worked beautifully until I put a knife to it. This refrigerator that I have now is frost-free and I've never . . .

F: No problems with it.

T: I have a deep freeze, in fact I have a couple of them, and neither one of them are automatic defrost. I wish they were because it's a big chore.

F: I can imagine.

T: I try to get it defrosted when the food is down low, but that doesn't happen too often. A good time to defrost, of course, is in the wintertime. I usually let it go until strawberry season; it's time to pack strawberries in there. Then you have to get everything out and wrap everything. I had one of those electric defrosters and used a blow dryer on it and it gets the job done in a hurry.

F: What kind of vacuum cleaner did you have when you were at home with your family?

T: Hoover.

F: What did it look like?

T: It was just an upright thing with a bag. We used to have a hand sweeper first all the time. I think everybody had those Bissell hand sweepers. But the first electric sweeper we got was the Hoover sweeper. I can remember before the Hoover sweeper, Robert, and the Bissell did a good job. I remember we used to take the newspaper, little bits of newspaper, and wet it. We would put it all over the carpet in the living room because you didn't have wall to wall carpeting like you have now; we had area rugs. We used to put these little bits of moist paper all over the rug to sweep it and that way it would keep your dust down. It would do a beautiful job, but what a job that was sweeping all of that up. We always had a Hoover; it was an upright thing. I don't think they have changed their more . . . right now I think you can get a vacuum with the tank type or different things. For the most part they're pretty much the same with the bag attachments and it had to be emptied periodically. They were thin, long, skinny, little things and now they're just . . . everything is so modernized. We had that for a long time, until a fellow came by; it must have been about 1938 or 1939, and believe it or not, I was out of high school in 1938. I graduated and I was going to business college, but my brother-in-law's sister needed somebody to take care of her children so I was taking care of her children while she worked. She paid me \$6 a week. I bought my mother an Electrolux sweeper that I paid with \$99 at the time.

F: Wow! That's a lot of money.

T: That's right. I'll never forget the things you could do with \$6. I could buy so many things. I remember at Christmas time I could buy everybody beautiful gifts. I earned that money and I saved \$6 a week. The first sweeper I bought my mother, the Electrolux, I bought when I was only earning \$6

a week. Now, I still use the Electrolux. I bought a Kirby once; well, I would rather not discuss that.

F: You had problems with it?

T: I think that was without a doubt the worst sweeper. It was very expensive; they were quite costly. This friend of mine, her husband died unexpectedly, so she started selling Kirby's. So the man came over here and sold us this Kirby, and it was supposed to be the best. He took my Electrolux and gave me that Kirby; I think I had it two weeks and I went out and bought a secondhand Electrolux again.

F: What happened?

T: It was just too heavy to lug around. It did not clean like it should. There were just so many features about it that I didn't like. We finally ended up, believe it or not, putting it in the Salvation Army trash. Would you believe today that both of my kids have Hoovers, both Jackie and Michele. When Jackie was down at school--she was down at Ohio State--I think Sonya had a Hoover and Jackie learned to use it and she loved it. When she was getting married, that was one of the things she wanted. Michele, when she was still married to Kenny, had expressed a desire for a Hoover sweeper, so we bought her a Hoover. Her dad bought the Concept II, I think. It was a really, really nice sweeper and I like them too, but I have this Electrolux. Now I got a new Electrolux and I'm kind of used to it. It's not so hard for me, because I have bursitis in the shoulder. I found that the Hoover was a little heavy. When I go down to Jackie's and I run the sweeper I find it a little heavier; it's a little harder for me to use than the Electrolux. We bought both kids Hoovers and we made a full complete circle. They love them.

F: How is a working day like taking care of your house compared to your mom during her day?

T: It's so unreal because we have such a big house.

F: But you have better appliances supposedly.

T: This is such an easy house to keep. I think housekeeping today is so much simpler. Your dishes you rinse off and put in the dishwasher. You have your automatic washer; you can go down and put a load in and go about doing everything else you want. A long time ago . . .

F: You stayed right there.

- T: You stayed right there and you washed and you took things out and you put them through the wringer; you put them in the rinse. And of course, you didn't have a dryer; everything had to be hung up either on the clotheslines in the basement or outside. Now, my goodness, you can put things in the washer and I can strip my beds and go down and put the clothes in and go upstairs and clean the bedrooms and take them out of the dryer and press them. I have an electric ironer, but I can't use it because of my shoulders and arms. You have to hold the thing and it's too painful. We press them all.
- F: What about having a microwave? How much does that help you?
- T: I don't get as much out of my microwave as a lot of people do. I know some people who do everything; they don't cook without it. I'll tell you what I couldn't live without today, and that's my food processor. I use that for everything. If you want to talk about saving time . . .
- F: The food processor . . .
- T: The food processor, that was the greatest. Last week one day I was making some applie pies and as I peel my apples and cut them and core them and put them in the processor, by the time I was through peeling and coring all the apples, I had them all sliced and ready for my pies. I can remember when we were kids we used to stand and pare the apples, core the apples, peel the apples; it was an all day chore. Mother always did . . . she did that the day before. When she made pies on Sunday or Saturday, she always pared the apples because it was a long time. She would usually make three or four pies; I usually make one or two now. It's a matter of minutes to get things done now. I think the microwave is great for vegetables, frozen vegetables and the like. I don't like it to bake potatoes. We don't like to cook meat in it.
- F: Why, it doesn't taste the same?
- T: You can cook them a long time or any length of time that you want, but there's a moistness about them and we just don't want the taste of potatoes baked that way. It's marvelous for your vegetables because they cook tender or crispy. I prepare my foods and I always have Al's dish ready and when he comes home at 9:00 I can put it in the microwave and heat it and it's just as if I had prepared it fresh. It's great for heating things, but I don't use it. I know once, only once, did I make scalloped ham and potatoes and he said, "Let's not do that again." He didn't care for that. You have to be so careful with anything that you put in it. If you're not careful it will dry it right out, chicken or meats or anything that you put in it; even your bread and rolls, it's

a matter of just seconds. However, I'm on my second microwave. The first one I didn't really want. The first one was a Christmas gift that Michele and her dad cooked up. They thought I should have a microwave and I said my problem is not time; I have plenty of time to cook, it's what to cook. I got to using it and just last year he said, "Don't you think it's time for an update; you've had that one since 1973. It's time you get a new microwave." So I did, and this is a push-button. It has a lot of different features on it that I like. I use it for a lot more, but I still, I could do without it.

F: If someone took away a lot of your appliances, like your dishwasher and the type of washing machine you use now, could you go back to what you were using before or what your mother used?

T: I doubt it. I probably could if I had to, but I wouldn't like it. I can't imagine going back; you can always go forward and you can get used to something so easily, but you try to break a habit sometimes and it's a little difficult. My dishwasher I could do without; it wouldn't bother me to have to wash dishes. But I would not want to give up my clothes dryer. That to me is just marvelous because it saves so much time; you're not hanging clothes out. I love that. Of course, I do love the automatic washer. But so far as things in my house, I think I could do without my dishwasher; I could do without my microwave.

F: Do you think that a lot of the appliances that are in the house now have kind of liberated women to get out of the house?

T: Absolutely.

F: Do you think that's good?

T: Oh sure. It gives us time to do a lot of other things, probably go out shopping more, have a lot more fun. But in another sense if you worked as I used to, until a year ago all these things helped so much to save time. You got home and you were limited as to how much time you had to prepare for your meals or your laundry. You could be putting your clothes in the wash and doing your laundry while you're upstairs cooking.

F: You would kind of do all your jobs in one day instead of stretching them out over a week?

T: Yes, that's true.

F: So they are more of a convenience then?

T: In every way, there is no doubt about that. I think about how simple it is to clean this house and keep this house and I know if I didn't have all the modern conveniences and the wonderful things we have today . . .

F: You couldn't do without them.

T: No. I don't mind keeping the house, and when it comes to cooking and baking . . . my freezers are always full; I never only make one thing, one loaf of bread or one pizza. I have all these wonderful conveniences to enable me to prepare and put aside in the freezer and then the microwave to defrost them.

F: It's real simple then?

T: You better believe it. We really have it made.

END OF INTERVIEW